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cordially invite you to:

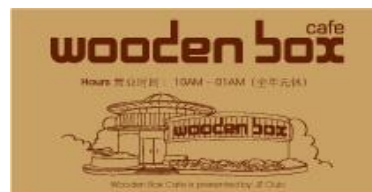
# *The Great Divergence: China's Economy in Global, Long-Term Historical Comparison*

## Debin Ma

Associate Professor of Economic History  
The London School of Economics

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

19:15pm – 20:30 pm



9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)  
青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 – Doors Open  
19:15 – Lecture  
20:00 – Q&A  
20:30 – Mixer/Live Jazz

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of [Hopkins China Forum](http://Hopkins China Forum) at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org), and note if from RAS.

**Was China the world's largest economy and richest country in the 18th century, or even earlier? Drawing on research on historical GDP, wage income, literacy rates, and biological and institutional indicators, this lecture will unveil the myth and reality about the history of living standards and well-being since the 16th century. In global context, these indicators present a comprehensive comparative picture of the world's leading economies such as England, the Netherland, China, and Japan in the early modern era. We will examine the developmental conditions and processes of these major countries in centuries both before and after the Industrial Revolution. Central to our analysis are the most fundamental institutional factors driving the initial Great Divergence between the West and the rest of the world, and the subsequent convergence. We will explore these factors and how they impact Chinese modernization in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries and beyond.**

**[Debin Ma](#)** is Associate Professor of Economic History at London School of Economics and Visiting Professor of Economics at Fudan University. From 2012-2015, he served as Secretary General of *International Economic History Association* and is also the founding member of *Asian Historical Economics Society*, an economic history research member of the *Centre of Economic Policy Research in Europe (CEPR)*. His main research interests include long term economic growth in China and East Asia, legal and institutional history, comparative living standards. His works have appeared in prestigious professional journals such as *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Journal of Economic History* as well as public media outlets. In 2016, he made multiple TV appears in the BBC documentary *The Story of China*. He earned his PhD in Economics from University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

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